



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Upper Toleman TRA		
PROJECT LOCATION	Toleman Road, South of Frog Pond Mountain	COUNTY	San Luis Obispo
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Alan Peters, SLU Unit Forester	PHONE	805-903-3406
ADDRESS	635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project consists of approximately 150 acres of fuel reduction within a 365 acre project area to create a Temporary Refuge Area which will provide an area of reduced vegetation which will promote reduced fire intensity during a large wildfire where residents, firefighters and related resources can be safe during an intensely burning wildfire such as the 1994 Hwy 41 fire which burned this entire area. This project is a component of a large fire defense network of existing fuelbreaks and strategic features that are intended to reduce the threat of a large wildfire.

Brush, primarily chamise, coyote brush, toyon and ceanothus will be removed and treated using mastication equipment or crushed using CAL FIRE dozers to track-walk designated areas of dense brush. Live oaks and willow trees over 5 inches diameter at breast height will be retained and pruned to eliminate ladder fuels. Hand crews will be used to prune residual trees and complete work in areas where equipment work is not feasible.

Project site is approximately 3 miles southwest of Atascadero at the south end of Toleman Road, off State Highway 41 West, which is a private non-County-maintained dead-end road. The project location is characterized by rolling topography with all aspects at an elevation of 1,320 to 2,080 feet. Vegetation type at this location is primarily chamise chaparral.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 14 CCR § 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land
14CCR §15308 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))


REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under two of the Categorical Exemptions listed in the CEQA Guidelines - 14CCR §15304 Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land, and 14CCR §15308 Class 8 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at San Luis Obispo Unit Headquarters.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
DEC 05 2016
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 12/21/16
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection